

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

20 December 2018

Ms. Emma Best  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 61278  
411A Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Reference: F-2018-02733

Dear Ms. Best:

This acknowledges receipt of your 8 November 2018 letter, received in the office of the Information and Privacy Coordinator on 8 November 2018, in response to our 28 September 2018 letter concerning your 28 September 2018 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for **copies of the most recent 750 pages of releasable emails containing the phrase Stefan Halper**. Specifically, you are disputing our 28 September 2018 answer to your request as our records are not configured in a way to limit that search without it being overly burdensome. We apologize if we were not more specific in our 28 September 2018 response.

We cannot process your request as it is currently written as our records are not configured in a way to limit that search to the most recent pages as it would require us to create a record in order to process this and that is not required under the FOIA. The FOIA was enacted to provide a means for the general public to access government records. Under the provisions of the FOIA, federal agencies are not required to perform research or conduct unreasonable searches through a body of material to see if any of it is related to a particular request. Therefore, we must decline your request as it is written. However, we could conduct a broader search for emails with a date range containing the phrase Stefan Halper. Notwithstanding, we may ask that you agree to pay all associated duplication fees with a request written that way, or narrow the scope even more. We will hold your request in abeyance for 30 days from the date of this letter pending your response. If we do not hear from you within the 30 days, we will assume you are not interested in modifying this request and close your request it as an improper request that cannot be searched.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allison Fong", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Allison Fong  
Information and Privacy Coordinator